

Patent Customer No. 6980  
Docket No. USC15 (019139.000022)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*C*  
*#77/jm*  
*09.13.02*

In re application of

BAGRODIA *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/583,120

Filed: May 30, 2000

For: A POLYMER NANOCOMPOSITE  
COMPRISING A MATRIX POLYMER AND  
A LAYERED CLAY MATERIAL HAVING  
A LOW QUARTZ CONTENT

Examiner: Wyrozebski Lee

Art Unit: 1714

Box RCE  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

September 9, 2002

OFFICIAL  
FAX RECEIVED  
SEP 9 2002  
GROUP 1700

**Preliminary Amendment**

In response to the Final Rejection dated April 09, 2002, Applicants submit the enclosed Request for Continued Examination. Additionally, Applicants acknowledge that the Amendment After Final Rejection submitted on June 28, 2002 is not entered and request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 11, 15-17, 20-21, 23-29, and amend the claims as indicated below.  
A marked up copy of the claims is provided as an appendix to this response.

*C1*  
7. (Once Amended) The nanocomposite of claim 1, wherein the layered clay material comprises montmorillonite, hectorite, mica, vermiculite, bentonite, nontronite, beidellite, volkonskoite, saponite, magadite, kenyaite, or a mixture thereof, wherein the layered clay material is optionally treated with an organic cation.